

Application No. 08/745,509

Although the Office Action notes the reasoning that it is desirable to avoid deteriorating results due to the breaking of optical fibers, as stated by Dr. Fulghum, there were other countervailing issues at the time of filing which did not favor the adoption of distally positioned detectors for fluorescence or Raman imaging, including the desire to obtain both a visible as well as a fluorescence or Raman image which can necessitate the use of two imaging devices, the desire to manipulate components involving the detector outside of the endoscope, and the difficulty in fitting components into the small space provided at the distal end of the endoscope. Additionally, any modification to the internal components of the endoscope were subject to separate regulatory system review. Thus, the claimed invention which involves a dedicated system with fixed components at the distal end, was not obvious to those skilled in the art at the time of filing of the parent application. Note further that the filtering systems use by the Ito and Nagasaki references are not suited for fluorescence or Raman imaging and thus do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (508) 416-2475.

Respectfully submitted,
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